

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
QUESTION-ANSWER SESSION FOLLOWING MFA MEETINGS, WITH MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS TEODOR MELESCANU
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA
JULY 18, 1994

Q: How did the meetings go?

ROMANIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TEODOR MELESCANU:

[inaudible] My ambition was to try to offer Mr. Perry some views, how we look at events in our zone and the role of Romania -- not strictly from a military point of view, let's call it political-military point of view. I'm myself very satisfied. I hope Mr. Perry is also satisfied, but this is the question to be addressed to him, I think.

Q: Might I ask just one more quick question? Do you also worry that the fighting in the former Yugoslavia and Bosnia might spread to other Balkan countries?

MINISTER MELESCANU: I informed Mr. Perry that one of our main objectives concerning the Yugoslav crisis is the containment of the conflict within the existing area and our full support for finding a negotiated solution to the conflict as it is. Yes we are preoccupied by this, being a neighboring country of the former Yugoslavia.

SECRETARY PERRY: I had a very good discussion with the Minister. I started off by reaffirming our commitment, the United States' commitment, to Europe and specifically our belief in the strategic importance of Romania, as witnessed by my visit here before I've even visited any of the NATO nations as Secretary. Now, I also wanted specifically to seek the Minister's advice on his assessment of what the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is today, and also to get his advice on ways in which the United States in the contact group could deal with that problem. And I got some very useful, very interesting comments and advice from the Minister in that regard. I told him it was worth the trip to Romania just to hear his assessment of the situation in Bosnia today.

MINISTER MELESCANU: May I add something? From my discussion with Mr. Perry, it's obvious now that there is a clear vision of the United States concerning Europe, and there is a kind of sequence in time of different initiatives which is, I think, substantiating this argument. I'm referring now to the recent meeting which took place in Warsaw, in which it's obvious that the United States came with a concept about the role of Central European countries in stability and about the role the United States is envisaging from their implication here, and now with visit of the Secretary of Defense to the, let's say, southern region of Central Europe, it's obvious that we have a concept, an integrated concept, of the U.S. administration about the role of the United States and [its] presence and [its] contribution to stability and security in Europe -- a role which we are welcoming.

SECRETARY PERRY: Thank you very much.

MINISTER MELESCANU: Thank you.